

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated January 22, 2003. Applicant has presented amendments and arguments below that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments and remarks to clarify issues upon appeal.

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, 31 and 32 were previously pending in the present Application. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, 31 and 32 were rejected. Claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 have been amended for clarification. New claims 33-41 have been added, however new independent claims 33-35 correspond to previously pending (and unamended in this response) claims 6, 16 and 26, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 31-41 are therefore pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable.

Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The claims as now pending include claims directed to four aspects of the disclosed embodiments in the present application. First, the present invention provides for a method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, including the steps of: creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a

second user interaction; displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in response to a user interaction.

Second, the present invention provides a method, system, and computer readable medium for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured. The method, system, and computer readable medium comprise creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction, displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport, and capturing at least a portion of the hidden information displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

Third, the present invention provides a method, system, and computer readable medium for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured. The method, system, and computer readable medium comprise creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction, and displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport wherein movement of the hidden information within the second window is influenced by the viewport.

Fourth, the present invention provides for a method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden

information within both a second window and a third window of the plurality of application windows, including the steps of: creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction; associating either one of the second application window and the third application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and displaying the hidden information of the associated window in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

Claims 33–35 (Previously pending claims 6, 16, 26 in independent form)

With regard to the first aspect of the present invention set forth in claims 33–35, claims 33–35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaaskelainen, Jr. in combination with Diedrichsen. The rejection of claims 33–35 is respectfully traversed.

First, it is respectfully asserted that there is no basis to combine Jaaskelainen, Jr. with Diedrichsen. Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches creation of one or more window hatches that appear to be similar to modeless windows that lack any type of window controls, including a menu, minimize, restore or close control. The rejection asserts that Diedrichsen includes “a minimize all” feature for minimizing all related windows in a Workplace. The rejection asserts that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to use the teaching of Diedrichsen in the Jaaskelainen, Jr. method because it would be a faster process of minimizing all windows.

However, claims 33–35 recite that is the viewport (corresponding generally to the hatch in Jaaskelainen, Jr.) that is to have the minimize-all button. Jaaskelainen, Jr. does not teach associating any of the window mode controls with the hatch, so a proper combination of Jaaskelainen, Jr. with Diedrichsen would add the minimize all button to

all the applications that support the hatches and not to the hatches themselves. Thus, the only way to minimize all the hatches would be to minimize all the windows. This is undesirable in many situations when a user desires to use the windows without the viewports/hatches. The rejection has not explained how the cited references teach the addition of a mode control to each of the hatches rather than to the window supporting the hatch.

Second, even assuming *arguendo* that it would be proper to combine the references, a proper combination of Jaaskelainen, Jr. and Diedrichsen would fail to satisfy all the limitations of claims 33–35, including: (1) the minimize all button on the viewport, and (2) the capture of hidden information that becomes invariant in response to a user interaction. The first limitation is addressed above in the discussion of a lack of motivation to combine the references.

With regard to the second limitation, the rejection cites Col. 12, lines 35–41 of Jaaskelainen, Jr. as teaching that the contents of a hatch can become invariant in response to a user interaction. This characterization of Jaaskelainen, Jr. is respectfully traversed. This same rejection is asserted against each of the former claims 6, 16, and 26, now claims 33–35 respectively.

Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches that multiple hatches need to be collocated in order to access successive overlapping windows, one hatch per window. The cited portion teaches that when a window having such multiple hatches is moved, it may be possible to decouple one or more of the collocated hatches. There is a mode in which a hatch will move without changing the pixels revealed in the hatch. This however, is not a capture of hidden information wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport

becomes invariant. The contents of the decoupled hatch are in fact variant, but not variant with respect to the movement of an application in which the hatch is formed.

Col. 12, lines 48–51 teach that “updates to the underlying window are made visible through the hatch, although the portion of the underlying window made visible through the hatch has been translated through movement of the top window.” In other words, changes to the hidden information in the underlying window are updated in the hatch, though the hatch is now located in a new position. Since the information revealed in the window in fact changes, it has not been “captured” or made “invariant” as those terms are used in the present application. Therefore the rejections against claims 33–35 are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 1–9, 11–19, 21–29, 31 and 32

Independent claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 have been amended to remove the limitation regarding the “minimize all” button and to add a limitation regarding a capture of hidden information/obscured windows to produce static information.

As discussed above regarding the patentability of claims 6, 16, and 26, the cited references fail to teach the capture of hidden information and therefore newly pending claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 are respectfully asserted to be patentable for the same reasons as claims 6, 16, and 26.

Claims 2–9, 12–19, and 22–29

Since claims 2–9, 12–19, and 22–29 are respectively dependent on claims 1, 11 and 21, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 11 and 21 apply with equal force to claims 2–9, 12–19, and 22–29. Accordingly, claims 2–9, 12–19, and 22–29 are respectfully asserted to be allowable over the cited references.

Claims 36–40

Newly added claims 36–40 correspond to independent claims 1, 11, 21, 31, and 32 wherein the “minimize all button” limitation is removed and a “movement of hidden information within an underlying window being influenced by the viewport” limitation is added.

The cited references do not teach that aspect of the present invention in which a user is able to scroll hidden information in underlying window using the viewport. As taught in the present invention, moving a viewport will cause information revealed in the viewport to automatically scroll by simply repositioning the viewport, under the appropriate conditions. In the cited references, the hidden information is moved by use of scroll controls of the particular application (accessible upon making the obscured window have priority) or by using a mouse to “grab” the underlying window through the hatch. The direct influence of the displayed information in an underlying window directly by the viewport is respectfully asserted not to be taught or suggested in the present references. Accordingly, claims 36–40 are respectfully asserted to be allowable over the cited references.

Claim 41

Newly added claim 41 corresponds to independent claim 1 wherein the “minimize all button” limitation is removed and a limitation added regarding that the viewport may display hidden information in either of two obscured windows may be revealed.

The cited reference to Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches that a single hatch may be associated with a single underlying window, and that a user must collocate a second

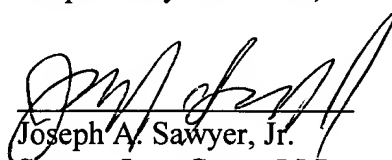
hatch with a first hatch in order to reveal a second obscured window through the first window.

One preferred embodiment of the present invention teaches that a single viewport may be associated with any obscured, underlying window, and that association may be easily changed by the user so that either window may be associated alternately with any of the obscured window. The cited reference has many special conditions to ensure collocation of windows, and special tests that are necessary because of collocated windows. The invention of claim 41 does not have these conditions and tests, and offers advantages to a user not available in the prior art. Accordingly, claim 41 is respectfully asserted to be allowable over the cited references.

Attached hereto and captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

Accordingly, Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
Sawyer Law Group LLP
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4540

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Two Times Amended) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction ~~wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;~~
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; ~~and~~
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and
- d) capturing at least a portion of the hidden information displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

11. (Two Times Amended) A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising:

means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction ~~wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;~~

means for associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; ~~and~~

means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and

means for capturing at least a portion of the hidden information displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

21. (Two Times Amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction ~~wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;~~
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; ~~and~~
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and
- d) capturing at least a portion of the hidden information displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

31. (Two Times Amended) A method for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising the steps of:

a) creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction ~~wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and~~

b) displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport; and

c) capturing at least a portion of the at least one application window displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

32. (Two Times Amended) A system for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising:

means for creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction ~~wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and~~

means for displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport; and

means for capturing at least a portion of the at least one application window displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport.

33. (NEW) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the

plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction;
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and
- d) capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in response to a user interaction.

34. (NEW) A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising:

means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;

means for associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction;

means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and

means for capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in response to a user interaction.

35. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;

b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction;

c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information; and

d) capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in response to a user interaction.

36. (NEW) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;

b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and

c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information wherein movement of the hidden information within the second window is influenced by the viewport.

37. (NEW) A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising:

means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;

means for associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and

means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information wherein movement of the hidden information within the second window is influenced by the viewport.

38. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information wherein movement of the hidden information within the second window is influenced by the viewport.

39. (NEW) A method for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction; and
- b) displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport wherein movement of information in the at least one application window is influenced by the viewport.

40. (NEW) A system for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising:

means for creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction; and

means for displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport wherein movement of information in the at least one application window is influenced by the viewport.

41. (NEW) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within both a second window and a third window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;
- b) associating alternately either one of the second application window and the third application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- c) displaying the hidden information of the associated window in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.